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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1378
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 7301
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 7679
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 3030
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 5718
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 6779
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 3497
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA PRIORITY 4963
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 2539
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 3825
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

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SIPDIS
SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR NEA/FO E. CATALANO AND ISN/RA R. NEPHEW

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PARMP PREL IR SP

SUBJECT: NEPAL BACKS U.S. POSITION ON IRAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM

REF: STATE 09124

11. (SBU) During a February 1 meeting with Acting Foreign Secretary Durga Bhattarai, Charge highlighted U.S. efforts to engage Iran on its nuclear program and Iran's continued unresponsiveness. He urged Nepal to support efforts to increase pressure on Iran (reftel). Charge noted that all countries have a stake in the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Bhattarai thanked Charge and said that Nepal remained fully committed to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. As a small country in the midst of three nuclear states, Nepal is particularly sensitive to risks of nuclear conflict.

12. (SBU) Asked by Charge about Nepal's relationship with Iran, Bhattarai said the two countries rarely interact in international fora. While Nepal and Iran share South Asian "civilizational" links, there was very little real contact between the two countries. Bhattarai added that, unlike other Middle Eastern countries, very few Nepalis work in Iran.
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